

National Recreation and Preservation/Statutory or Contractual Aid for Other Activities

JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE

Activity: Statutory or Contractual Aid for Other Activities
Subactivity: Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission

Program Component	1999 Estimate	Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	2000 Budget Request	Change From 1999 (+/-)
Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission	239	3	0	242	+3
Total Requirements \$(000)	239	3	0	242	+3

AUTHORIZATION

Public Law 98-398, the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Act, 1984, as amended, Public Law 104-333, the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act, 1996, and Public Law 105-355 (Title V), Other Matters.

OVERVIEW

The NPS provides funding support to the commission for the retention, enhancement and interpretation of cultural, historical, natural, recreational, and economic resources of the **Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor**.

APPLICABLE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MISSION GOALS

- Ia Natural and cultural resources and associated values are protected, restored and maintained in good condition and managed within their broader ecosystem and cultural context.
- Ib The National Park Service contributes to knowledge about natural and cultural resources and associated values; management decisions about resources and visitors are based on adequate scholarly and scientific information.
- IIa Visitors safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity, and quality of park facilities, services, and appropriate recreational opportunities.
- IIb Park visitors and the general public understand and appreciate the preservation of parks and their resources for this and future generations.
- IIIa Natural and cultural resources are conserved through formal partnership programs.
- IIIb Through partnerships with other Federal, State, and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, a nationwide system of parks, open space, rivers, and trails provides educational, recreational, and conservation benefits for the American people.

***Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission
FY 1999 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments***

Enacted: \$239,000

FY 1998 funding allowed for significant commission involvement with the Sesquicentennial of the opening of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. This included sponsorship of the opening ceremonies in Chicago, which drew participation from representatives of the 49 communities in the corridor and the State of Illinois. In addition, the commission provided small grants to stimulate local commemorative activities such as town parks, museum exhibits and new signage.

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Funds provided in FY 1999 will allow the commission to wrap up the Sesquicentennial celebration with a closing ceremony recognizing the assistance of communities and partners. Extensions of trail systems during the Sesquicentennial will require the revision of trail maps and additional signage. In FY 2000, the commission will expand its technical assistance to the communities in the corridor and work with various agencies to rehabilitate resources using TEA-21 (Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, Public Law 105-178) funds. Also on the agenda will be improvements in signage in the corridor and completion of the trail system into the city of Chicago.

The commission, which was extended for five years to 2004, by Public Law 105-355, will also be working with its partners to develop new goals and objectives for the corridor in line with the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act.

Federal support of the commission is proposed to remain unchanged in FY 2000 except for additional funds to cover pay increases for NPS support staff.